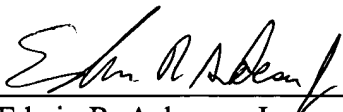


REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are merely formal and have been made to correct minor grammatical or typographical errors. The amendments are fully supported by the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved. Applicant respectfully requests that this Preliminary Amendment be entered prior to the examination on the merits of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, The Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, this 23rd day of March, 2004.

